

Leicester,
Dec^r. 23 /74

My dear friend Garrison;

I have no words in which to thank you properly for your most beautiful note on your seventieth year* which comes to hand this morning, and which I have just read. It is indeed to me, most beautiful, as a transfiguration of your spirit, as a gloriously cheerful and lofty view of life, its progress, its transitions, its translation hence to other fields, & then its boundless horizon. It is not less welcome because it is to myself admonitory, - cheering^{too} and strengthening. I am glad to say it does fall in well with my own prevailing line of thought, with my hopes and my faith. It is the best kind of argument too, if evidence and proof we require of the Hereafter & of our own Part in it.

* Bully. 69th. W.D.M. for a time accepted the erroneous entry (1894) in the Newbury Town Records.

F. G.

I admire, as I see, the reality of your clear, strong faith. I do not wonder at it, but see that it is just what was to be expected; I have long thought that the one condition of such clear faith lay in cheerful, willing and complete obedience to the highest spiritual laws; - in entire absence of all open or secret resistance to the Divine guidance; - in hearty acceptance of the great law of Good will to all Men, and of the duties and sacrifices it calls for. Simple conditions -

"Sweet truths, and easy to repeat -

But when my faith is sharply tried, I find myself a learner yet, -

Unskilful, weak, & apt to slide."

Simple, plain as the conditions are, how few there be in whom they fully obtain~~and~~. I am usually startled when Sam. J. May's quoted words freshly occur to me, in regard to the Life Beyond - "I may have a clearer
Sight,

A happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

but I cannot have a surer faith."

Oh Happy Christmas and New Year to you all.
And still it doesn't surprise me at all that he found it so. It simply was the logical, or better the spiritual, sequence. It is the conclusion following the premises. It is the harvest of good seed carefully sown, faithfully tended. It is the fulfilment of the dear Father's promise to the pure in heart, to the obedient in life and spirit. — It is, I repeat, the strongest possible evidence of God, of truth, of the Immortal life, of all Spiritual Things. Happy & blessed indeed are they who possess it. "Over such" neither the first nor the "second death hath any power".

Your testimony to your wife's life, character, and spirit is simply worthy of you and worthy of her! I will not attempt to say more. — What heroism there is in common life —

